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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9745
INFO RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 5235
RUEHJA/AMCONSUL SURABAYA PRIORITY 0251
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 5367
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH 3643
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 3564

UNCLAS CANBERRA 000631

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR H AND EAP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OREP AMGT ASEC AFIN AS

SUBJECT: POST WELCOME STAFFDEL WILLIAMS

REF: STATE 65942

¶1. (SBU) AmEmbassy Canberra, with concurrence of Consulate-General Sydney welcomes STAFFDEL Williams and delegation for travel to Sydney, Canberra, and Cairns, Australia from June 26-July 6, 2008. The purpose of the travel is to discuss US-Australia trade, climate change and aboriginal issues.

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¶2. (SBU) Climate change has become a dominant issue in Australian domestic politics. STAFFDEL Williams will find their interlocutors knowledge of the issue sophisticated and can expect robust dialogue on the issue. The issue of bilateral trade is also of great interest to the Government of Australia (GOA) and the private sector. (Note. Post would like to inform STAFFDEL Williams that the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) is located in Sydney. End note).

If the STAFFDEL would like to expand their program to include a longer stay in Sydney, rather than in Canberra, there would be a large pool of potential meetings which could be arranged on the issue of trade.

¶3. (SBU) In preparation for the visit post seeks further information on proposed discussions regarding aboriginal rights and land issues. There may be sensitivity within the Australian government to an issue that may be seen as outside the scope of the bilateral relationship. This information will also assist post in identifying appropriate government personnel and non-governmental organizations for potential meetings. It would also be useful if further information was provided regarding the scope and intent of the proposed visit to Thursday Island, particularly in relation to West Papua.

¶4. Post stands ready to assist STAFFDEL Williams in its

visit to Australia.

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